NO.5
BREAKERS





GRIME TRACKS



SHELLS EJECTED BY QUICK-FIRING AUTO-MATIC WEAPONS USED BY CRIMINALS IN PERPETRATING A CRIME, HAVE BEEN USED BY POLICE TO PLACE THE CRIMINALS AT THE PLACE OF THE CRIME.



OT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY A CARTRIDGE CASE WHICH HAS BEEN FIRED IN A REVOLVER, IN THE SAME WAY, ALTHOUGH THIS TYPE OF WEAPON DOES NOT EJECT THE FIRED CASES. A REVOLVER CASE HAS A PROJECTING RIM - AN AUTOMATIC CASE DOES NOT

REVOLVER OF AUTOMATIC

How criminals are trapped...

AS IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR CRIMINALS TO PICK UP EACH AND EVERY SHELL EJECTED FROM AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON USED AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME, POLICE EAGERLY SEEK THESE SHELLS FOR IMPORTANT CLUES.



A MICROSCOPE WILL SHOW THAT A FIRING PIN WILL LEAVE ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL MARKS ON A FIRING PRIMER, WHICH WILL MAKE IDENTIFICATION POSITIVE.



FIRING PIN OF AUTOMATIC PISTOL



CASE

ENLARGED VIEW OF PRIMER



SMITH & WESSON

UT IS EASY TO DETERMINE, AT A GLANCE, WHETHER A BULLET WAS FIRED FROM A COLT, OR A SMITH & WESSON REVOLVER. THE GROOVED "LANDS" IN A COLT BARREL TWIST TO THE LEFT, WHILE SMITH & WESSON GROOVES TWIST TO THE RIGHT, AND ARE WIDER THAN THE COLT GROOVES.

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IT'S OUR WITNESS, ALL RIGHT, LT., AND THEY DID A
GOOD JOB ON HIM, TOO! SHOT AT LEAST FOUR
TIMES! WEIGHTED HIM DOWN, BUT THE BODY MUST
HAVE WORKED FREE WITH THE CURRENT AND COME
UP OF ITS OWN ACCORD. SOME KIDS FOUND IT
UNDER THE PIER.





NOT NECESSARILY.
THE CURRENT IS OVERY STRONG
RIGHT HERE. HE
COULD HAVE
DRIFTED A
LONG WAY.

THAT PUTS THE
SHOOTING TWO DAYS
BEFORE THE TRIAL AND
THE BODY DISPOSED OF
MOST ANYWHERE ON
THE WATERFRONT, NOT
MUCH TO GO ON.





THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I
KNOW OF TO SMOKE THESE
RATS OUT. FIRST I WANT
THEM TO DO A LITTLE BIT
OF WORRYING. NOW LISTEN
CAREFULLY...



























GOOD WORK, NICK! GET BEN AND MEET ME HERE AT TWELVE. THE THREE OF US CAN HANDLE THIS. IF M°COY'S MOVE IS FOR TOMORROW, WE'LL MAKE OURS TONIGHT!



M° COY'S
GONNA GET
HIMSELF A
COMPLEX IF
YOU KEEP
SNATCHIN'
THESE
WITNESSES
OUT FROM
UNDER HIM
BOSS!

T'LL GIVE HIMANALEX THANK HZOL IDOY LAME



HE MUST'VE GONE TO BED...
TAKE IT EASY, WE DON'T WANT
TO WAKE HIM UP. THIS IS
GONNA BE A CINCH!







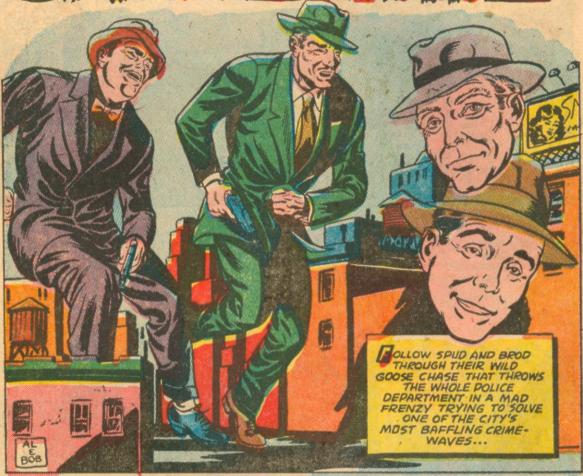








CRIMEWANE











































WAIT! THERE'S MORE















































THERE ARE NO OTHERS! THESE
MEN ARE PERFECT VENTRILOQUISTS WHO TOOK TO CRIME.
THEY USED THE TOOTHPICKS TO
HIDE THEIR LIP MOVEMENTS!





YOU GUYS CAN THROW YOUR

WORDS DEATH

The trouble with most people is that they talk too much. And I don't mean you have to count the number of words that come out of a fellow's mouth to say, "Shut up, you fool!" It may be just one sentence, perhaps two, but when he's said something he shouldn't have let pass his lips, then he's talked too much. Albert Gover talked for sixty seconds but that was long enough to let the shadow of the electric chair hover over him.

Every Saturday morning during the summer months, I would get up at five in the morning. My ten year old son, Herman, would tickle my toes and yell, "Hey Pop, get up. We gotta make that boat. Hurry or we'll be late." We would eat breakfast in a hurry and just before we went to the garage for the car, my wife Jeannette would go through the same ritual, "Now remember John, if the water looks too rough, don't you take Herman on that boat. You can fish on the dock. And for heavens' sake, give the fish away this time. It smelled up the house the last time you brought home those flounders."

The "Elsmere II" had seen better days in her youth. However she was now anchored off Bradley's dock on the south side of Main Street. Captain Michael Kolber, a tall middleaged balding man was in charge most of the time. When he was away, his first and only mate, Henry Ray, took the wheel.

I liked this boat for two reasons. They didn't mind children and most people concentrated on the fishing. That meant they didn't get nosey and ask who you were or what you did. Once a man asked my son what his pop did and got the standard reply. "Military secret. Can't tell because there may be spies around."

I liked to fish near the pilot house. Herman would fish on my left side and generally a man in his late twenties or early thirties by name of Albert Gover would fish next to me. "Best sport in the world," he would repeat each time we met. "Gives you a chance to get lots of fresh air, forget the worries that bother you. Argue it out with the fish."

On this particular Saturday the boat wasn't too crowded. Competition from an increasing

number of boats at the pier was biting into Captain's Kolber's business. But at least half of the twenty people on the boat were his steady ones. At noon Albert Gover opened his leather bag to get his lunch. You should see his expression change as he yelled, "Forgot to put the lunch in again! That wife of mine is always dizzy. Sits in the living room and looks at those diamond rings on her fingers. One of these days I'm going to bash in her skull and get me a woman that can cook." Maybe he was just letting off some steam. Maybe he was being a bit theatrical. Or maybe he was just talking too much. Perhaps he would have talked more but that curly-haired kid of mine shouted, Pop, something heavy is on my line. I can't pull it up." It could have been the anchor rope. But the way it tugged you could see he had something really big. "Your drag is slipping on your reel," advised Albert Gover. My son tightened the drag and brought in a blackfish that tipped the scales at eight and a half pounds. That put us all in good humor so when my stomach informed me it was time to eat I suggested to Gover, "My wife always makes more sandwiches than we can eat. What do you want, ham and cheese or tuna fish salad?" Give him the tuna fish salad," chimed in my son. "I want the ham and cheese."

We all caught lots of fish that day and it meant that most of us would be back on the boat next Saturday. Next week we were a little late making it but Captain Kolber held the boat for us. "Look mister," he told an overanxious new customer, "there's lots of fish in the sea. What's ten minutes more or less in a life time." And Gover managed to hold our usual places for us on the boat.

At lunch time Gover offered us some sand-wiches. "Got a new girl friend," he smiled, "and see if you like the minced hams she has prepared." After my son had made four of them vanish into his insides we laughed. Henry Ray was in the pilot house on this trip because as he explained it, "Captain's got some important business to take care of. Think he wants to get a new Diesel for the boat."

The boat docked at five ten and I started for

home. It would take me about forty minutes to get to our place. At five thirty I heard a siren of a police car in back of me and pulled over to the side of the road. Patrolman Louis Richman was at the wheel and he explained things to me. 'Sorry to bother you, Inspector Davis, but Inspector Matthews had to leave town on official business. A woman was just found dead at 265 East Midland Avenue, name of Hannah Gover, and they are holding her husband, Albert Gover. Any instructions, sir?"

I told him to take my son home and I would go at once to the scene. In spite of the protests of my son who pleaded, "But Pop, how will I ever be a real detective if you won't take me on a case?" I went there alone.

Albert Gover turned white when he saw me and found out what my position was. One look at his face and I knew what was going through his mind. The words he had uttered on the boat last Saturday with enough people to swear him into the electric chair. The Coroner, Doc Himelstein, gave me a quick run down on details. 'Skull smashed in with a stilson wrench. Death was almost immediate. Death must have taken place about five twenty or thirty." As we figured out later, it would have taken Albert only ten or fifteen minutes to get home. I looked at the fingers of the dead woman and our suspect number one read my mind and answered the question I didn't have to phrase. "The rings are missing. But I didn't kill her. So help me. And I wouldn't take the rings. They were just cheap imitations I bought down in Mexico City two years ago. When the light hit them they seemed like the real stuff."

The case would have made the headlines of the next edition except for one unforseen event. Tommy Holland, the playboy, shot his wife, his mother-in-law, his father-in-law, and then jumped out of the window. So all this case got was a notice in the paper, "... woman found dead, with smashed skull. Husband held as suspect." All this was on page twenty-two, if you read that page and looked for the item.

Albert Gover asked me to speak with him alone in his cell. I was about to refuse but changed my mind. Why? I don't know. He certainly looked in low spirits as he sat on a cot. "Those words are haunting me that I spoke on the boat. I know things look against me. Sure, when I saw her on the floor I yelled out the window for help. But tell me, do you think I would kill my wife?"

You had to answer the fellow. "What I think is immaterial. It's what the grand jury thinks and then the regular jury. You had the opportunity and the motive. The fingerprint boys tell

me you left a fairly clear impression of three fingers on that stilson wrench. How come?"

"I'm not sure whether or not I picked the wrench up when I saw my wife on the floor," he answered. "I was sort of sick in the stomach. Like a bad dream you had, then you awake, and find it's the real thing. I know the neighbors will probably say we got on like cats and dogs, but murder is not my line."

I left him in his cell without any promises. How could I? Then I went back to my detail work at headquarters. Things were quiet for the rest of the week. Saturday came again. It was a gloomy day. I hesitated about going but Herman changed my mind for me. "Hey Pop, we'll lose our good places on the boat, Hurry before we miss it."

When we got on the boat I saw Ray in the pilot house. "Where's Captain Kolber?" I asked. Back came the reply, "Downstairs, fixing the engine. Think we got some battery trouble."

I was half way down the steps when Captain Kolber greeted me. "So you're a top man in the police force. Boy, you don't look like a flattoot! Guess they'll burn Gover in the hot seat. Deserves it for killing his wife with a stilson wrench. What a bloody way to die."

My son Herman was in back of me and he had sharp eyes and ears. "Pop," he shouted. "The papers didn't say anything about a wrench being used to kill Mrs. Gover. The only way Captain Kolber could know about it must be that he's the killer."

I could see the man's face turn white. He went for a hammer near on a bench. And I went for that special 132 I always carried in a holster. I made the gun before he made the hammer and two slugs stopped him cold.

Albert Gover and I were alone fishing from a rowboat. My son Herman was at a friend's birthday party. Ray had bought the boat and was fixing it up. We would be there next week.

"People talk too much," began Gover. "But for the rest of my life your kid and you will be my best friends. Captain Kolber must have gone nuts when he found out the stones were just glass." I had something to say. It didn't detract from my kid's wonderful job. "He surely must have been slow on brain power. My kid was right about the newspaper. But Kolber did hear the item over the radio. They said a stilson wrench had been used as the murder weapon. Only he got shocked when my son thought he had spotted the killer—and you see he did. If Kolber had only shut up, you and not he would be the one heading for the chair."

The End



CROSS THE NORMALLY QUIET BACK ROADS OF ORANGE COUNTY. A PAIR OF BLINDING HEADLIGHTS STREAK THROUGH THE NIGHT...



OH YEAH? AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ONLY ANSWER HAS TO BE NEW CLUES! YOU CITY BOYS FOUND OUT SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY GOT YOU HUSTLIN!

RIGHT, SHERIFF. THE NARCOTICS SQUAD HAS TRACED SMUGGLED OPIUM TO THE SCENE OF YOUR ANCIENT CRIME... THAT PUTS AN ENTIRELY NEW LIGHT ON THE CASE.



































THAT DOESN'T FOOL ME FOR A SECOND, SHERIFF! THIS PLACE WAS USED AS A WARE-HOUSE FOR NARCOTICS -- OUR STIFF ON THE FLOOR HERE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT AND HE WAS HUNG THE SAME WAY DONOVAN WAS YEARS AGO





BUT, WHEN THE SHERIFF GOES OUTSIDE ...

































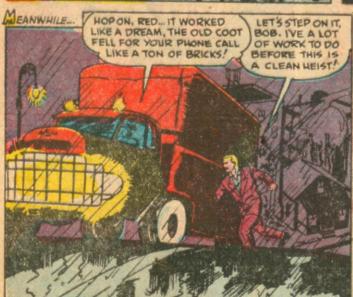
























MEANWHILE A SCANT FEW MINUTES AFTER



YEP! I
CALLED YOU.
FELLER COME
IN HERE AND
L/T OUT WITH
AN ACME
TRAILER!

PID HE
SHOW YOU
ANY
CREPENTIALS
FROM THE
ACME?



NOPE, NOTHING! BUT ACME CALLED ME ON THE TELEPHONE JUST BEFORE... SAID THAT THIS WHIPPER'SNAPPER WAS COMING AND THAT A FLEET WAS ON IT'S WAY HERE... THAT I SHOULD GET HIM OUT













YOU GO AHEAD

MR. HARDING ...





YES, I WAS RIGHT... IT WAS A GARAGE! LOOK HERE, THE GREASE ON THESE TIRES... AND THERE'S FRESH GREASE UNDERTHIS CAKED MUD. THE LAB WILL BE ABLE TO BACK TRACK THE ROADS THIS TRUCK TRAVELED WHEN IT LEFT ITS RENDEZVOUS POINT.





NONE HERE.
WIPED CLEAN
AS A WHISTLE!

HERE:
WIPED CLEAN
AS A WHISTLE!

HERE: IF THEY HAVE ANY
KIND OF A RECORD, WE'LL
KNOW WHO THEY ARE
IN A FEW MINUTES!

FEW MINUTES LATER AFTER A PHONE CALL IS MADE TO THE FINGERPRINT DEPARTMENT OF THE F.B.I. FROM THE LOCAL POLICE PRECINCT...



























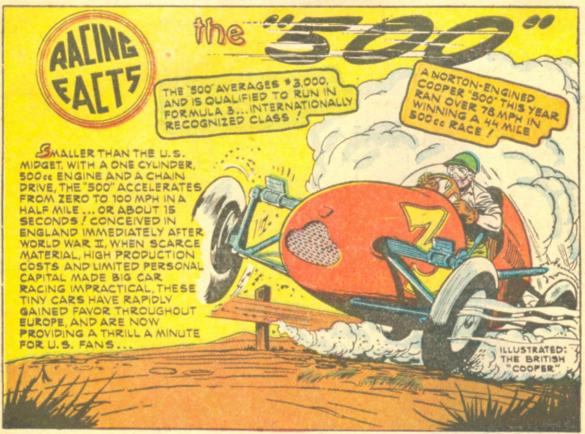


BACK IN THE TRUCK- EXPRESS-LINES -- JUST TWENTY MINUTES AFTER THE ACME TRAILER THEFT ---



IF MORE PEOPLE REALIZED THE F.B.I. TODAY
WILL CLOSE IN ON A HI-JACKER WITHIN TEN
OR FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE CRIME,
TO PREVENT THE SCATTERING OF STOLEN
CARGO.... I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD
BE TEMPTED TO MAKE AN ILLICIT FORTUNE
BY HI-JACKING INTERSTATE CARGO!





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BURTON N. LEVEY, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of Sept. 1951 Edward A. Handi Notary Public (My commission expires Nov. 16, 1954)

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